

OBITUARIES

Charles 'Chuck' Henry Fitch

May 20, 1915 – June 4, 2015
Charles "Chuck" Henry Fitch, 100, of Dallas, died Thursday in Dallas.

He was born in San Francisco. His mother died when he was 4 years old, and he went to live with his elderly grandmother in the Napa Valley, Calif. When he was



12, he went to live with his aunt Nan Fitch Cray and uncle William H. Cray in Echo. They were Mom and Dad Cray to him. He celebrated his 12th birthday on May 20, 1927, on the train from Oakland to Portland, and it was the same day that Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic. That event so impressed Chuck that it shaped his future of having a career in airlines.

Chuck graduated from Echo High School in 1933 with honors. He was active in school sports including tennis, basketball and track. During school and after graduation he worked operating printing presses and linotype in Will Cray's weekly newspaper, the Echo News. Chuck was fascinated by radio communication, and he studied for and obtained a ham radio license and also an FCC commercial radio operator license.

He met and dated Betty Hawkins from Dallas, a Willamette University graduate, who was an English teacher at Echo High School. They were married in 1937 in Dallas, just after he was hired by United Airlines as a station agent in Pendleton.

In 1939, Chuck was transferred by United to Salt Lake

City as a ground radio operator. In 1942, he was promoted to chief radio operator and assigned to San Francisco to work with United's domestic operations and their Pacific Military Air Transport Command. Following the end of World War II, he was transferred to United's headquarters in Denver as director of system air ground communications. In 1948, the airlines ceased operating their own air-to-ground radio stations and contracted with Aeronautical Radio Inc. (ARINC). Chuck transferred from United to ARINC as station manager at San Francisco. In 1950, he was transferred to their headquarters in Washington, D.C., as director-operations. In 1968, he was promoted to vice president-operations and ARINC headquarters was moved to Annapolis, Md. He retired from this position in September 1977, when his wife Betty died of cancer.

After a consulting contract with the United Nations, he returned to Oregon in 1979 and settled in Dallas. In 1980, he married Veryl Bratager, of Albany, originally from Madison, S.D. Chuck and Veryl moved to the Dallas Retirement Village in 2011. Veryl died in 2013.

Survivors include his sons, David (Linda) of Reno, Nev., Michael (Jackie) of Clearville, Pa., and Richard (Lin) of Cape May, N.J.; stepdaughter, Alison Warmann of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; stepsons, Brian Bratager and Mack Bratager, both of Seattle; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Jerry Lee Blackwell

July 14, 1941 – May 17, 2015
Jerry Lee Blackwell, 73, of Reno, Nev., formerly of Dallas died May 17.

He was born in Lewis, Colo., to John Henry and Lois Blackwell. In 1951, he and his family moved to Valseltz where he grew up. He later

moved to Dallas.

Jerry served in the Army from 1960-1964 and was stationed in Germany from 1960-1963.



While living in Dallas, he was sworn in as a member of the Dallas City Police Reserves on Sept. 14, 1967, and also served as a Polk County Sheriff Reserve Officer through the late 1970s.

He had worked for Carl May at the Texaco Station in Dallas as a mechanic, and later owned his own service stations in Monmouth and Independence. Jerry moved to Reno in 1978.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Patrick Leon Blackwell.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Doris (Chancellor) Blackwell of Reno; son, John R. Blackwell of Reno; daughter, Deborah Gillett of Dallas; and two grandsons and one great-grandson.

At his request there will be no formal service. Interment will be at the Lower Falls City Cemetery.

James Arthur Lyons Jr.

July 15, 1928 – May 31, 2015
James Arthur Lyons Jr., 86, of Dallas died May 31.

He was born in Chicago to Madalin and James Lyons.

Jim grew up in the Chicago area and spent his summers in Minocqua, Wis. At the age of 18, he and three



friends traveled to Alaska to explore with renowned adventurer S L i m Williams. After he graduated from Colorado A&M (Colorado State

University), he served in the Army as a first lieutenant in the Korean War and was awarded a Bronze Star.



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After his return from the service, he met and married Carol Schuldt. They lived in Hinsdale, Ill., where Jim worked as a manager at Vaughns Seed Company. They moved to Dewey, Ariz., in 1963, where they raised Davenport Arabian horses, cattle and sheep. Jim served on the school board as well. They moved to Barnett, Mo., in 1977, and to Oregon in 1989, settling in Dallas in 1999.

Jim was interested in organic farming and soil conservation. He was a talented wood carver for many years.

He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Sarah, and his wife of 49 years, Carol.

Survivors include his son, James (Sherrie) Lyons; daughter, Diane (Ed) Lyons; sister, Jean (Richard) Tyska; two grandsons; and extended family.

Service was Saturday at Dallas Retirement Village Chapel.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Anita Janell Crafton

April 29, 1928 – May 25, 2015
Anita Janell (Horton) Crafton, 87, of Sheridan died May 25.

She was born in Eugene to Dale and Vineta Horton.

The family moved to Toledo, where she grew up and graduated from Toledo High School. She then attended dental school in California for a year.

She married Kelvin Crafton in McMinnville on



June 28, 1952, and they moved to Vancouver, Wash., in 1953. Anita worked as a health nursing assistant at St. Joseph Hospital in Vancouver for 15 years.

Her interests included cooking, knitting and crocheting. Anita had crocheted more than 100 afghans.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, George Horton in 2012, and Larry Horton in 2003.

Survivors include her husband, Kelvin Crafton of Sheridan; children, Janell (Crafton) Morris (Brian) of Dallas, Doug Crafton (Beth) of Spokane, Wash., Kenyon Crafton of Scappoose and Randy Crafton (Joann) of Camas, Wash.; siblings, Dalton Horton of McMinnville, twin brother Arlin Horton of Pensacola, Fla., and Mahlon Horton and Danny Horton, both of Montana; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

At her request, there will be no service. Interment will be in McMinnville.

Marlene Alice Rose

Aug. 18, 1932 – June 4, 2015
Marlene Alice (Rein) Rose, 82, of Dallas died Thursday in Dallas.

Marlene was born in Salt Lake City to George Franz Karl Rein Jr. and Alice Marguerite Plewe.

She spent her childhood in Oakland, Calif. Her family later returned to Salt Lake City, where she graduated from South High School. The family moved to Boise, Idaho, where she attended Boise Junior College (now Boise State). There, Marlene fell in love with Judd, who was set to join the Air Force.

Judd and Marlene were sealed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Salt Lake City Temple on March 20, 1952. They lived in Boise for eight years, then moved to Livermore, Calif.

Marlene's life was altered by tragedy on July 4, 1966, when she lost her husband, father, sister and brother-in-law in an airplane accident. She raised four children on her own, supporting her family by providing beautiful flowers for over 100 weddings a year. She also did daycare in her home. After her children married, Marlene moved to Dallas in 1988, and worked for various departments in the state of Oregon.

Marlene loved to keep up with each child and grandchild. She had a passion for travel and history. She was a faithful member of the LDS Church, serving in many capacities. Marlene sang, acted, and wrote original scores and scripts, but was most at home in the director's chair.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Judson Harvey Rose Jr., and sister and brother-in-law, Yvonne and Richard Hardisty.

Survivors include her children, Michael (Connie) Rose of Plumas Lake, Calif., Rebecca (Craig) Kiser of McMinnville, Tracy (Karen) Rose of Richland, Wash., and Celeste (David) Lewis of Alpine, Utah; sister, Kathleen (Karl) Koenig, of Costa Mesa, Calif.; 16 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and extended family.

Open house and memorial was Sunday at her home. Interment is Saturday at 11 a.m. at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove, Calif. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled the local arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Phillip Drexler Sperling

March 24, 1918 – June 3, 2015
Phillip Sperling, 97, of Independence died June 3.

He was born in Salem to Herman and Odella (Drexler) Sperling.

Phillip attended Parker School until he went to Independence High School, graduating in 1936. Phillip had been the oldest graduate to attend the Independence all-classes reunions each year.

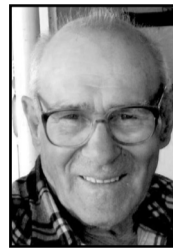
Phillip married Delia Moreland on Nov. 1, 1941, in Independence. At that time, he was a teller at the bank in Independence. In 1944, they moved out to their farm south of Independence. They had been married for more than 64 years. Phillip was a farmer most of his life. He also was a mechanic who worked on Ford Edsels, diesel trucks and tractors.

Besides farming, he also did some logging and electrical work.

Phillip and Delia had a habit of buying Ford Edsel cars. He said it had been a pleasurable addition, a poor man's hobby and a barrel of fun to belong to the Edsel Club. He had more than 60 Edsels on his Edsel Farm behind the farm house. He was a founding member of the Oregon Chapter Edsel Owner Club and a member of the Farmers Union and Mary's River Grange. He had served as rural fire chief of Polk County.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Delia Sperling in 2006, and daughter, Kay Ann Vrell in 2007.

Survivors include his daughters, Marjorie Garner (Ves) of Vale and Marilyn



Boyer-Kern (Dennis) of Albany; sons, Frank Sperling (Anna) of Madras and Wendell Sperling (Sherry) of Independence; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Celebration of life is Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.; entrance is in the back. Phillip wanted a casual celebration of life with everyone wearing overalls or jeans and enjoying food and visiting.

Contributions are suggested to Independence Gleaners, attention: Angie Amos, 307 I St., Independence, OR 97351.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Robert C. Patterson Jr.

Nov. 8, 1948 – June 6, 2015

The life of Robert C. Patterson Jr., 66, of Independence will be celebrated at a gathering at a later date.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements. To share an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

June Marie Smith

July 19, 1927 – June 6, 2015

June Marie Smith, 87, of Sheridan died Saturday in McMinnville.

She was born in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Viewing is Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. Graveside service is June 17 at 10 a.m. at Salt Creek Cemetery in Dallas. To send an online condolence: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Judy Jo Wood

July 26, 1946 – June 4, 2015

Judy Jo Wood, 68, of Dallas died Thursday.

She was born in Lakeview to Albert and Ona Burgess.

Judy married Turney Wood on April 12, 1986, in Dallas.

Judy was a homemaker, and was known for baby sitting and cooking the best meals in town for her family. She loved church and God.



Her passions were garage sales and spending time with her grandkids. Always a happy, always loving, she had a beautiful smile and a good sense of humor. She was preceded in death by her brother, Calvin Burgess.

Survivors include her husband, Turney; children, Leslie, Sheila, Ray, Shannon and Tim; brother, Ardyth; twin brother, John; sister, June; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside service is Wednesday (today) at 2 p.m. at Dallas Cemetery.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

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